

Remarks

The various parts of the Office Action (and other matters, if any) are discussed below under appropriate headings.

Allowable Claims

In the last Office Action, the Examiner did not act on claim 9. In an earlier Office Action, claim 9 was indicated to be allowable. Favorable action on claim 9 is requested. New claim 28 has been added and is dependent on claim 9.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

By way of the foregoing amendments, claim 11 has been amended in a manner that renders moot the rejection under 35 USC § 112. Claim 11 now depends from claims 10 instead of itself.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The anticipation rejection advanced by the Examiner is premised on the Examiner being able to read the "front surface" of the main unit on a side surface of the kitchen unit denoted as the "main unit" in Fig. 9 of the Klein (DE 197 00 149 A1). According to the Examiner, "applicant did not define a front surface in reference to the main unit." Although the undersigned respectfully disagrees for the reasons previously advanced, claim 1 has been amended to recite a toy kitchen comprising, *inter alia*, a main unit ornamented to look like a kitchen and having a front wall, opposite side walls, and a countertop extending lengthwise between the side walls. Presumably there can now be little disagreement that the "main unit" of Fig. 9 of Klein does not have a "front wall" to which an "island" can be removably attached to form at least two separate play areas at respective sides of the repositionable island.

Klein also does not disclose a reconfigurable toy kitchen as set forth in claim 12, wherein at least one removable and repositionable second unit is removably attachable to a first unit in a first position located between the opposite ends of the first unit with

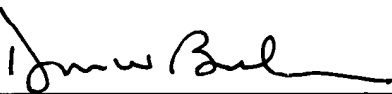
the longitudinal plane thereof perpendicular to the longitudinal plane of the first unit to form at least two separate play areas, and the second unit is removably attachable to the first unit in a second position in which the longitudinal planes thereof are substantially coplanar.

Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, request is made for timely issuance of a notice of allowance.

Respectfully submitted,

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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING (37 CFR 1.8a)

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Date: July 20, 2004


Don W. Bulson

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